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Equal Rights

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MAY 5, 1928

Times Wide World

MARGARET BEVAN

Lord Mayor of Liverpool, England, whose election is acclaimed by British women as a victory for Feminism. Miss Bevan was elected on a record of unparalleled public service.

Feminist Notes

The Married Woman's Citizenship

SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, Republican, of North Dakota, has introduced a bill providing that a woman citizen of the United States shall not cease to be a citizen by reason of her marriage to an alien unless she makes a formal renunciation of her citizenship before a court having jurisdiction over naturalization of aliens.

An American woman loses her citizenship today by marriage to an alien ineligible to citizenship, or by living abroad a specified number of years after marriage to an alien.

American Women May Study at Oxford

THE opportunity to study at Oxford for a brief period is being offered to American women by the Women's Colleges of Oxford University. The subject of the course, which will be held from July 6 to 27, is "England in the Nineteenth Century." The literature, political and social history, economic development, and scientific and philosophical achievements of England during that period will be described and discussed. Among the lecturers will be authorities such as Temperley and Trevelyan, Laski and Cole, and Ernest de Selincourt. Those students who wish to work under the tutorial system for the period of the course will be given an opportunity to do so.

The students will be housed in the four women's colleges, and the committee on the course will arrange special excursions and social events for them. The fee for the course is $125, covering full board and residence, lectures and classes, excursions and plays.

American women teaching in the secondary schools of the United States, and graduates of accredited colleges and universities, are eligible for the course. Requests for information and application blanks should be sent to the secretary to the Committee on International Relations, American Association of University Women, 1634 I street, Washington, D. C.

Virginia Woolf Wins International Prize

VIRGINIA WOOLF, English author whose works were reviewed in EQUAL RIGHTS some time ago by Olivia Dunbar, has been awarded the international Femina Prize for 1927. The award was based on her novel, "To the Lighthouse," which was submitted by the English committee, along with novels of Stella Benson's and Storm Jameson's. Mrs. Woolf writes in a new literary form, with a powerful analysis of her characters.

She Believes in Women

"SHE believes in women" is suggested by a writer in the *Independent Woman* as an inscription on a monument to Mary E. Dillon, president of the Brooklyn Borough Gas Company. Not only does she believe in women, but she believes in married women and in mothers. She is married. She encourages her women employes to marry and have children, and her encouragement is a fact, not a theory, because she willingly grants leave of absence for child-bearing.

"No consideration of sex has ever been a factor in an appointment I have made, nor do I seriously believe that sex has anything to do with business qualifications," Miss Dillon says. Her company has a woman secretary, a woman treasurer, and a woman draftsman. She worked her way to the presidency from a position as a clerk, without money, influence, or "pull."

Miss Dillon also believes in women's health.

"Women sometimes claim that there is discrimination against them in business on physical grounds," she points out. "They say that men are preferred for positions on the assumption that they will miss less time at the office because of illness. So far as our establishment is concerned, that has proven a fallacy. Women are rarely ill in my plant. Certainly they are absent no more than the men, and they really show amazing physical stamina."

She points out that other public utilities are recognizing the ability of women. The Edison Company of Detroit has a woman as vice-president and sales manager, but Miss Dillon's company is still unique in having women as president, secretary and treasurer.

Women Pharmacists Exempted

DULY licensed women pharmacists were exempted from the operations of the New York night work law as the result of an amendment to the law passed recently by the New York Legislature.

The New York State Branch of the National Woman's Party supported the bill introduced by State Senator Truman, who was formerly chairman of the State Industrial Survey Commission.

When the bill was passed women writers and reporters in newspaper offices were exempted, and now duly licensed pharmacists are exempted as a result of Senator Truman's amendment.

The law prohibits women from working between 10 P. M. and 7 A. M.

Woman Juror Law Attacked

THE validity of the law permitting women to serve on juries in the District of Columbia, especially women whose husbands are Government employes, has been attacked in the Court of Appeals by Abner Siegal, counsel for Malcom Howard, colored, who is under sentence of death for the murder of a colored woman. The attack failed in the lower court and Mr. Howard appealed.

Mr. Siegal contended that the law compelled men to serve and gave women the opportunity to refuse to serve and hence, he argued, it was class legislation. Two women were on the jury which convicted Mr. Howard. Assistant District Attorney John Fihelly opposed Mr. Siegal's contentions.

Negro Woman Lawyer Attacks Segregation

THE only active negro woman lawyer in New York has filed a $500 suit against the Eastern Steamship Lines because she was refused a de luxe suite on a steamer plying between New York and Norfolk, Virginia.

She is Ruth Whitehead Whaley, who charged in a brief filed in the Supreme Court that the company violated the civil rights law by declining to provide her and her husband with a cabin on the salon deck and gave them passage in a segregated negro section of the vessel. Mrs. Whaley said her action was merely to test the constitutionality of the law on the ground that the State law cannot govern interstate commerce.

Woman to Be Chief of Passport Division

RUTH B. SHIPLEY, now assistant chief of the office of co-ordination and review, has been appointed by Secretary Kellogg as chief of the passport division of the Department of State, to take effect June 1.

She will succeed Parker W. Buhrman, foreign service officer of class six, who is to be assigned to another station. Mrs. Shipley has had a great deal of experience in passport and citizenship work, as she was for a number of years special assistant to the late Assistant Secretary A. A. Adee, when he had charge of passports and citizenship matters.

She entered the department in 1914, and Secretary Kellogg said that her appointment as chief of the passport division was "a recognition not only of her special qualifications for her new post, but also of the exceptionally valuable services which she has rendered to the department for many years."

Hearings on Porto Rican Suffrage Bills

A PLEA for suffrage for women who are American citizens but who have no vote was made before Congressional committees last week. This may sound like a story from pre-war days, but it is a story of 1928. The women of Porto Rico are American citizens, by Act of Congress, but they are still unenfranchised.

Arguments for and against woman suffrage that have not been heard in Congress since the days of agitation for votes for women in this country were revived on April 25 in a hearing before the Senate Committee on Territories and Insular Possessions on a bill to enfranchise Porto Rican women.

Dr. Marta Robert of San Juan, secretary of the Liga Social Sufragista of Porto Rico, and Rosa Emanuelli, who have been sent to Washington by their society to work for action by Congress on this measure, and Burnita Shelton Matthews, chairman of the Lawyers' Council of the National Woman's Party with which the Liga is affiliated, spoke in behalf of the bill.

Mary Kilbreath of the *Woman Patriot,* an anti-suffrage magazine, and a representative of the Sentinels of the Republic, opposed it. Miss Kilbreath took advantage of the hearing to make an attack upon the National Woman's Party as a "militant Feminist organization" which, according to its own declarations, placed equality of women above politics and even nationalist considerations.

The hearing was on a bill sponsored by Senator Hiram Bingham of Connecticut, chairman of the Committee to Amend the Organic Act of Porto Rico to the effect that the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex. A similar bill has been introduced in the House by Representative Edgar Kiess of Pennsylvania, chairman of the House Committee on Insular Affairs.

The Organic Act providing a civil government for Porto Rico adopted by Congress in 1917 gives Porto Rican women American citizenship but does not give them the right to vote, as it does the men of Porto Rico.

Senator Bingham took occasion during the hearing to say that had the women of the United States been voting in 1917 when the Organic Act was adopted, it would undoubtedly have included a provision for woman suffrage and that now it was fitting for Congress to remedy that omission.

Dr. Robert declared that Porto Rican women now look to Congress to give them the same rights as it has given Porto Rican men.

"The fact that we are American citizens gives Porto Rican women the right to vote in any part of the United States after six months' residence, but this right is denied to us in our own country. We ask immediate action by Congress to correct this absurd and unjust situation."

Miss Emanuelli, who was for six years a teacher in the public schools of San Juan, declared that the women of Porto Rico are educationally prepared for the vote, the same as women in other countries are.

"In Porto Rico most of the school teachers are women," Miss Emanuelli stated. "If women are qualified to educate our citizens, they are fit to exercise the right to vote. There are many women property owners who pay taxes in Porto Rico. These women have no voice in the election of the representatives to our legislature who levy taxes on their property. They are demanding the right to elect and be elected representatives."

A hearing on the House bill took place on April 30 before the House Committee on Insular Affairs.

Code for Industrial Women Promulgated

STRIKING a new note for women in employment, a Findings Committee on Women in Industry, formed at the October convention of the National Association of Manufacturers to study the whole broad question, on April 12 made public its report which is summarized in a "Code for Industrial Women." The principles involved have been endorsed by twenty-five women leaders in fourteen States; and will be submitted at a later date to the Board of Directors of the Manufacturers Association for action.

The code reads:

"1. From time to time movements arise to enact laws in our legislative bodies which, under the guise of protection, effect the following injurious results:

"Restriction of the field open to women workers, limitation of their hours of employment, curtailment of their wages, reduction of opportunities for promotion and advancement, and a lessening of the value of women workers to employers.

"2. We appreciate the fact that the interests of men and women workers and of their employers are interdependent.

"3. We affirm the right of adult women to freedom of contract.

"4. We hold that mature employed women should forever be removed from classification with children and young persons.

"5. We repudiate the assumption that the wages and hours of mature workers shall be fixed by law.

"6. We recognize the need for judicious State legislation for the protection of children.

"7. We endorse the application within industry of scientific measures for maintaining high standards of human welfare."

The Findings Committee is made up of the following:

Miss Merica E. Hoagland, director of welfare, Diamond Chain and Manufacturing Company, Indianapolis, Ind., chairman; Miss Katherine Huey, employment manager, Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y.; Mrs. Aura S. Edwards, director of the women's division, Associated Industries of Missouri, St. Louis; Miss Marjorie Wilford, The Atlantic Wire Company, Branford, Conn.; Miss Margaret R. Johnson, personnel director, United Hosiery Mills Corporation, Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Mrs. Marguerite B. Benson, director women's bureau, National Association of Manufacturers, New York.

All the women of the committee have had wide experience in the employment field and they have devoted more than four months to an exhaustive study of the changing status of working women. This committee maintains that, industry having recognized the value of the shorter working day and science having repudiated the idea of women's physical inferiority, protection should be based on the nature of the work and the capacity of the individual and not upon sex.

Added significance is given to this report, says the committee, by the latest investigation of the British Industrial Fatigue Reserach Board. Four thousand women workers were studied and compared with a group of unemployed women and it was found that industrial work engaged in by them was not harmful to their health or strength. Another scientific report comes from Scotland where a comprehensive study of child life was made. One conclusion drawn is that "correlations of height and weight of the child to the industrial occupation of the mother are quite insignificant and give absolutely no evidence that industrial occupation of the mother is detrimental to the growth and nutrition of the child." This, it is held, controverts the popular notion that children are necessarily affected when mothers work.

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OFFICIAL ORGAN
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Capitol Hill
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Edith Houghton Hooker . . . Editor
Dora G. Ogle . . . Business Manager

Associate Editors:

Nina E. Allender
Zoe Beckley
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MEMBERSHIP OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

Annual Dues	$10.00
Associate Members	$1.00
Subscribing Members	$3.00
Founders	$100.00
Life Members	$1,000.00
Endowers	$5,000.00
Sustainers	$5,000.00

OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 64.]

Introduced in the Senate, January 4, 1923, by Senator Charles E. Curtis.

International Feminism

WHEN one looks at a map of Europe before the war and compares it with a map of the same continent as it appears today, the transient and arbitrary nature of nationalism flashes into bold relief. What are these little man-made lines that come and go on the face of the planet? What do they betoken and of what practical value are they to the children of mankind? There will be those who will regard this question in itself as treasonable, but we put it all the same, for there is burned into our consciousness a vivid picture of the tragic part that women have heretofore played in the conflict of the nations.

Without rights, without power, without glory, and without fame woman has been a pawn in the hands of men, and whoever has won, she has lost. Age after age she has lost all that she loved most in the world, treasures of the heart that no victory could repay, until at last wearying of impotence she has awakened to a new understanding of patriotism. Her country is the world, her children are the children of mankind, and her allegiance is to those who need her. Much has been said of mother love by men, much that is true and beautiful and sentimental, but until recently this regenerating force has been sedulously excluded from world politics.

Now, however, with the birth of the International Feminist movement there appears a hope that motherhood may come into its own.

FROM all quarters of the world congratulations are pouring into headquarters on the International Feminist victory recently achieved at Havana.

From the Six Point Group in England comes the following letter:

The Six Point Group
92 Victoria Street, London, S. W. 1.
4th April, 1928.

Mrs. Jane Norman Smith,
National Woman's Party.

Dear Mrs. Smith:

I have much pleasure in sending you the following resolution which was passed unanimously by the annual general meeting of the Six Point Group held here on Monday, April 2:

"The Six Point Group of Great Britain send cordial greetings to the National Woman's Party of the United States and sincere congratulations on the success of their work on behalf of International Feminism when, at the Sixth Pan-American Conference held at Havana, they secured a hearing for women demanding Equal Rights and, further, the appointment of an Inter-American committee of women to study the laws and propose measures to bring about equality for consideration by the Seventh Pan-American Conference to be held in 1933."

Believe me,

Yours truly,
Brenda Dickinson,
Organizing Secretary.

THE chairman of the executive committee of the Six Point Group is Lady Rhondda; the vice-presidents are:

Dame Adelaide Anderson, D.B.E.; the Viscountess Astor, M.P.; Lady Balfour of Burleigh, Lady Berry, Lady Violet Bonham Carter, Prof. Winifred Cullis, O.B.E., D.Sc.; Miss Clemence Dane, Miss Agnes Dawson, Miss Beatrice Harraden, Mrs. James O'Hea, C.B.E.; Lady Horsley, Mrs. H. B. Irving, Dame Madge Kendal, D.B.E.; Mrs. W. H. Moberly, M.A.; Miss Eva Moore, Miss Elizabeth Robins, Dame Mary Scharlieb, D.B.E.; Dr. Caroline Spurgeon, Dame Ethel Smyth, D.B.E., Mus.Doc.; Dr. Jane Walker, Mrs. Wintringham.

We present these names to our readers in evidence of the fact that the women who are interested in International Feminism are persons of consequence and force. Thinking women all over the world realize that their basic interests do not stop at national frontiers. Peace, liberty, justice, education, the welfare of little children, civilization in a word, these are the concerns of women of every nationality, everywhere.

What then more natural than that women should stretch out their hands to one another across the sea? Across the quite terrestrial sea that encircles the planet and across that other dark and turbulent waste of waters, prejudice, tradition and blind subordination to the will of man. International Feminism: What may it not betoken? Those of the faith foresee a new heaven and a new earth, a human race at last become truly human.

What the National Woman's Party Has Done for Women in New Jersey 1925-1928

By Leila Enders
Chairman, New Jersey Branch,
National Woman's Party

THE New Jersey Branch of the Woman's Party has secured the passage of eight Equal Rights bills by the New Jersey Legislature. These laws remove discriminations based upon sex and affect approximately 900,000 women:

1. Women teachers in educational institutions supported by public funds have been given equal rights with men teachers as to "appointment, assignment, compensation, promotion, transfer, resignation, dismissal and all other matters pertaining to the employment of teachers." (1925 session.)

(Formerly men teachers had superior rights.)

2. Women have been given the right to serve as executors, administrators, guardians and trustees on the same terms as men. (1926 session.)

(Formerly women were discriminated against in this respect.)

3. Mothers were given Equal Rights with fathers to the services and earnings of their minor children. (1926 session.)

(Formerly such services and earnings usually belonged exclusively to fathers.)

4. Married women have been accorded full contractual capacity. (1927 session.)

(Formerly the married woman's power to contract was more restricted than that of men or single women.)

5. Wives have been given the same right as husbands to establish a legal domicile for the purpose of voting, office holding, testacy, intestacy, jury service, and taxation. (1927 session.)

(Formerly wives had no voice in the selection of their legal domicile.)

6. Wives have been given the right to their wages for all paid work done by them for third persons, whether performed inside or outside of the home. (1928 session.)

(Formerly the husband owned the wife's labor except in employments carried on outside of the home and separately from him.)

7. Mothers have been given the same rights as fathers to execute a deed or will giving the custody and guardianship of their minor children to a third party. (1928 session.)

(Formerly the father had greater testamentary guardianship rights than the mother over their children.)

8. Girls have been given the same protection as boys against errors in regard to marriage; that is, the legal annulment age has been made eighteen for both girls and boys. (1928 session.)

(Formerly boys were more protected against the want of discretion than girls, because girls could only have marriages annulled up to the age of sixteen, while boys could have them annulled up to eighteen.)

Senator W. B. Mackay has been a strong and faithful leader in the movement to advance the position of women in New Jersey. All except one of the measures proposed by the Woman's Party were introduced by him in the Senate. Senator Morgan Larson introduced the measure relative to the earnings of married women. The bills adopted in 1927 were introduced in the lower house of the Legislature by Assemblyman Chandless.

The bankers co-operated in securing the adoption of the law dealing with the capacity of married women to contract. Some of the Equal Rights measures have not had smooth sailing. For instance, the bill providing for equal opportunities for women teachers with men teachers was opposed by Governor Silzer, but was passed over his veto. The Equal Rights measures passed in 1926, 1927 and 1928 were all approved by Governor Moore.

French Suffragists Become Militant

By Katharine Ward Fisher

A SUFFRAGE demonstration was staged in the French Senate on March 16. The first adequate account of it which has reached EQUAL RIGHTS is contained in the April number of *Le Droit des Femmes*, received April 23. From this account and from Paris newspapers of March 17 it appears that the demonstration was a well-organized militant action carried out by a large group under the leadership of Maria Verone, president of the Ligue Francaise pour le Droit des Femmes, and member of the International Advisory Council of the National Woman's Party.

The demonstration was unanimously decided upon at a meeting of Feminist associations. The parliamentary session was to end on March 17. Woman suffrage had not even been debated in the Senate. The action of the suffragists was to protest against the continued postponement of the suffrage bill. As *Le Droit des Femmes* puts it:

"Frenchwomen at last realize that in spite of all the fine promises made to them, in spite of the flowers with which they were crowned after the war, Parliament is opposed to woman suffrage. * * * And to Parliament which tells them, openly or tacitly, that the door to the political arena is to remain closed to them, they reply, 'Whether you are willing or not, that door is going to be opened.' * * * That is the meaning of the warning given to the Senate on March 16, 1928."

By four o'clock on the 16th more than fifty women had gathered at the Palais du Luxembourg where the Senate sits. Among the leaders, in addition to Mme. Verone, were Mme. Hasse of the Ligue d'Action Feminine pour le Suffrage; Mme. Fonseque, president of the Association pour l'Amelioration du Sort de la Femme, and Louise Brunet, president of the Comite de Propagande Feministe. The doorkeepers appeared somewhat suspicious of them as they entered the galleries. A long report on military affairs was being read. What happened at its close is told in Mme. Verone's own story, published in *L'Oeuvre* the next day. She says:

"After two hours of listening to a statement of what will take place in the next war, we thought the time had come for us to intervene. So Mme. Hasse of the Ligue d'Action Feminine pour le Suffrage rose and called out, 'To stop war, women must vote!'

"Immediately, with one accord, we all stood up, and from the corners of the gallery where we were grouped the same cry arose, 'Women must vote!' I seized a handful of leaflets and threw them into the semi-circle. They were seen falling like pretty little many-colored butterflies fluttering down upon the pink bald heads of the Senators. My comrades followed my example. But at this point the doorkeepers, none too courteous, arrived on the scene. * * * Mme. Fonseque, president of the Association for Improving the Condition of Women, was there, also representatives of the war widows, of wounded women with war decorations, and of women employes; but I alone had the honor of being summoned to the office of the superintendents. I was surprised,

but I took advantage of the occasion to discuss suffrage.

"As they were taking me along, outside (that was worth more than being sent, inside) we saw that Mlle. Brunet, more fortunate than ourselves, had been able to speak without being interfered with by the doorkeepers. Naturally, they were all over on our side and did not suspect that there were suffragettes in the opposite gallery also.

"As we left we said, 'Au revoir, gentlemen, till next time. We warn you that we are going to do this again and that, no matter what precautions you take against us, we shall find a way every time to accomplish our purpose. If you close the doors to us, there are windows in the Palais du Luxembourg through which stones can be thrown.'"

A letter signed by all the women, confirming their spoken protest, was sent to the president of the Senate, Paul Doumer. M. Doumer is reported in the *Journal Officiel*, the record of proceedings of Parliament, as saying after the demonstration: "There is no reason to take this incident seriously," and the Senate signified its approval of his remark. Which, according to *Le Droit des Femmes*, "is a direct invitation to do more."

Congratulations, suggestions, and words of encouragement have come to the militant group from all sides. The Six Point Group and the Women's Freedom League have sent letters to Mme. Verone congratulating her and her associates upon taking the first step on the path which led the English suffragists to success.

Equal Rights vs. Protection in New York State

SO far as we know, few, if any, of the State and local branches of the Young Women's Christian Association have been allowed an opportunity to hear arguments by wage-earning women in favor of industrial equality for women, or to hear a speaker in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. Nevertheless, the leaders of this organization, according to the New York *Times* of April 21, have secured the adoption by the Tenth National Convention of a program which pledges the Y. W. C. A. to fight for State legislation providing for an eight-hour working day for women *in all lines of industry*, as well as for freedom from night work, with guarantees of a minimum wage, and in opposition to the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

And this action was taken at a convention held in California—the State where last year wage-earning women waged a bitter legislative fight against an attempt by the State Labor Commission to make the existing eight-hour law for women so rigid that every woman worker in the State, with exception of cannery workers, nurse-maids, domestic workers and trained nurses, would have been brought under the restrictions of the law. Working women of California defeated this bill in committee by a narrow margin of votes.

How long will the rank and file in the Y. W. C. A. follow their leaders in a course so obviously against the interests of women? A brief study on their part of what has happened to some of the special labor laws for women, which they, together with other welfare organizations have sponsored, will show that these laws have been passed against the wishes and without the consent of the women concerned.

New York may be cited as an example of the reaction of working women to the attempts of the Y. W. C. A. and kindred social welfare organizations belonging to the Women's Joint Legislative Committee to force the passage of special restrictive laws for women. Bit by bit, as working women have been affected by existing laws, their efforts have broken them down, and they are consistently fighting against the extension of special labor laws.

In 1912 a 54-hour week law for women in factories was adopted by the New York Legislature, sponsored by the State Federation of Labor, the women's unions under control of the men's unions, and welfare groups. This law contained a prohibition of night work for all women over 21 years of age, the forbidden time being that between the hours of ten o'clock in the evening and six o'clock in the morning. Women engaged as writers and reporters in newspaper offices, and women proof-readers, linotypists and monotypists in newspaper offices were affected by this law.

Night work regulations were made uniform throughout the State for mercantile establishments in 1914, when all female employes were prohibited from employment between 10 P. M. and 7 A. M., exceptions being granted between the 18th and 24th of December. This affected women who worked in department stores, drug and candy stores, and every store where merchandise is sold.

Licensed women pharmacists were practically prohibited from practicing their profession under this law. For, while a licensed woman pharmacist could work all night in a drug store selling only drugs, chemicals and poisons, no such drug store exists. She could, however, work all night in any drug store, provided she confined her work to putting up prescriptions and selling them. The minute she attempted to sell a bandage, a toothbrush or any other article after 10 P. M., she came under the mercantile law and was forbidden to work. The New York law requires the presence of a licensed pharmacist in every drug store. Men pharmacists have been able to put up prescriptions and also to sell merchandise after 10 P. M., and for that reason women pharmacists have been greatly handicapped in the pursuit of their profession.

Restaurants in first and second class cities were next to come under the restrictions of a 54-hour law and they were included among those places where the employment at night of "females over 16 years" was prohibited between the hours of 10 P. M. and 6 A. M. The law, however, did not apply to women who were singers and performers of any kind, nor to "attendants in ladies cloak rooms and parlors," nor to "females employed in or in connection with the dining rooms and kitchens of hotels, or in connection with lunch rooms or restaurants conducted by employers solely for the benefit of their employes."

The employment of women over 21 years of age as messengers in first and second class cities before 7 A. M. and after 10 P. M. was prohibited in 1918.

In 1919, women were prohibited from employment on freight or passenger elevators in any place except hotels, between 10 P. M. and 7 A. M. (If the elevator is used in an industry in which the employment of women before 7 A. M. is not prohibited, a woman may begin to run an elevator at 6 A. M.)

Along with the day-time regulations for females on street railroads and elevators in 1919, came the provision that women were not to be employed between 10 P. M. and 6 A. M. "in connection with the operation of street, surface, electric, subway or elevated roads, or the selling or accepting fares or admission in any railroad station, car, or train of the same."

Dr. Elizabeth Faulkner Baker, assistant professor of economics of Barnard College, in her book, "Protective Legislation, with Special Reference to Women in the State of New York," says with regard to this railroad law: "To consider the law itself, however, it is clear that it was in marked opposition to present railway service requirements, so much so, that there seems a choice of only two explanations for its passage. Either the bill was championed by those who would discourage the employment of women in the transportation service altogether, as was the case with the women core-makers; or else the bill was introduced and fostered by those who had no scientific knowledge of the industry to which it applied." A note follows: "This latter seems hardly probable, following so closely upon the

careful analysis of the transportation industry in New York by Benjamin Squires."

Do self-supporting women want these laws? The following facts prove that they do not:

In 1919, women writers and reporters in newspaper offices succeeding in having the six-day week regulation of their work removed and also secured exemption from the provisions of the night work law.

In 1920, the women railroad workers, led by Mary A. Murray, a ticket agent on the B. M. T. Railroad (now chairman of the Industrial Council of the Woman's Party) demanded the repeal of the restrictions against women railroad workers. They succeeded in having a law passed cancelling all hour limitations for women on railroads, except conductors and guards.

In 1917, women printers, linotypists and monotypists in newspaper offices, led by Ella Sherwin, Ada Wolff and Margaret Firth, began an agitation in the Legislature against being forbidden by law to work at night. For eight years the women printers sacrificed leisure and savings to secure exemption from the "protection" of the law, and it was not until 1921, after the expenditure of an enormous amount of energy and considerable money, that they finally secured exemption.

Before the passage of the so-called 48-hour law in 1927, a wave of protest from women restaurant workers went to the Legislature against the passage of any more special labor laws for women. These women succeeded in averting the passage of the rigid 48-hour week law which was proposed by the men's labor organization and the welfare groups. In the 1927-1928 session, led by Frances Roberts and Jeannette Cortez, both restaurant workers, restaurant women went to Albany week after week to work for the passage of the Boyle bill to exempt women restaurant workers from the restrictions of all special labor laws, including the night work law. The bill came out of committee but was not voted upon.

However, the bill introduced by Senator Truman to exempt licensed women pharmacists from the night-work clause of the 54-hour law, passed the Legislature and has been signed by the Governor. Thus, Governor Smith, an advocate of special labor laws for women, through the pressure on the Legislature of women workers who disagree with the legislation he favors, has seen fit to sign two bills exempting women workers from the provisions of special restrictive laws—one for the railroad workers and one for licensed women pharmacists.

That organizations of wage-earning women are being aroused to the menace of special labor laws for women is shown by the action taken during the last year by one national and several State organizations. The National Woman Lawyers' Association, at its 1927 convention, unanimously passed a resolution against special labor laws for women. The New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Delaware, Indiana and other State branches of the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs also passed at their 1927 conventions resolutions against special labor laws for women. In the face of this action on the part of organizations of self-supporting women, it does not seem possible that welfare groups can continue to pledge themselves to sponsor legislation which is opposed by the women whom it will affect. They may hang on for awhile for the same reason as that given by a well-known welfare leader, who, in discussing the proposed eight-hour law a few years ago said to a member of the Woman's Party: "It would not take much to make me flop over to your side, but I have worked so many years for the eight-hour law, that I cannot bear to desert my colleagues at this late day." In the end they will agree, we hope, that "men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

Press Comment

Time and Tide,

London, England,
March 23, 1928.

A SIGNIFICANT incident took place in the French Senate last week. The Senate has, time after time, blocked the way to woman suffrage. Today it stands between France and the realization of this reform. On Friday last, just as General Hirschauer had finished reading his report on the Military Effectives Bill to the Senate, a deluge of manifestoes, pamphlets and post cards fell suddenly upon the heads of the Senators, "whilst," says *The Times,* "shouts of 'If you don't want to kill our sons, give us the vote,' rang out from the public galleries." The disturbance was caused by a group of woman suffragists headed by the well-known French lawyer, Madame Maria Verone. The demonstrators were immediately taken to the police station. Madame Verone, when questioned, explained that this appeared to be the most effective way to overcome the objections of the Senate to woman's suffrage. In other words, and at long last, militancy has broken out in France. Spectators in close touch with the French situation have felt for a considerable time that militancy would be needed before the obstinacy of the reactionary forces in the Senate could be overcome.

The effect of the action taken by the group led by Madame Verone, and the next step they may decide upon, will be watched with close interest all over the world.

Time and Tide,

April 13, 1928.

INTERNATIONAL FEMINISM has now been well launched with the actual setting-up of the Pan-American Commission of twenty-one women, and the announcement last week of the appointment of Miss Doris Stevens as its chairman. It was to the initiative of the National Woman's Party of the United States, and in particular to the brilliant and forceful address of Miss Stevens (chairman of the committee on International Action of the National Woman's Party) before the Pan-American Conference in Havana last February that the decision of that conference to institute the women's commission was due; and it is therefore particularly fitting that Miss Stevens should have been chosen as its chairman. The twenty-one members of the commission represent the twenty-one American republics which participated in the Havana Conference; and their immediate task is to study the status of women in the Americas, and to prepare for the next Pan-American Conference, to meet in Montevideo in 1933, a report and recommendations for the improvement of their status. It is to be noted that the commission has permanent standing and is not merely an *ad hoc* body. On another page we publish a vivid account by Miss Doris Stevens herself of the events at Havana where, in her words, "International Feminism was born."

A Wife's Rights

New York Sun,
April 20, 1928.

WOMAN has two stout champions on the bench of the Court of Appeals. Sherman was marching through Georgia on that summer morning in 1864 when Cuthbert Winifred Pound, the younger of these, was born in Lockport in Niagara County, a district that was quick to pledge itself to female suffrage. William Shankland Andrews of Syracuse, who is in his seventieth year, is the husband of Mary Raymond Shipman, author of the celebrated bit, "The Perfect Tribute"; she published "The Eternal Feminine" in 1916. These two distinguished jurists are in open opposition to their associates in the Court of Appeals on the right of a woman to sue her husband for damages for malicious prosecution. The majority of the court has held that such an action

may not be maintained because of the marital relation and in recognition of the common law unity of husband and wife.

Judge Pound declares this extension of immunity to the husband is barbarous. Malicious prosecution is personal injury. When in law as in fact an existence separate from her husband is given to the wife for all other purposes the court should not remerge her being into that of her husband and assume a legal unity of husband and wife for the single purpose of protecting him when he injures her person without right. Of the remedies available to a wife who has been subjected to personal injuries, Judge Pound says: "Separation and alimony she may not want. The punishment of her husband criminally may leave her destitute or disgrace her children. * * * If he breaks her arm, if he has her arrested without cause and incarcerated the law should not so be construed as to deny her full and adequate relief."

The dissenting opinion of Judges Pound and Andrews declares that every step in the history of legislation in regard to married women has been in the direction of the complete abrogation of the old rules which date back to the exhortations of St. Paul. They construe the Domestic Relations law as "part of a harmonious system designed to permit married women to seek redress for any violation of their rights by any person."

Editorial

Palo Alto Times, April 19, 1928.

EVEN many of the alleged advocates of Equal Rights are looking forward with dread to the time when the suffrage law changes in Engand become effective, as the flapper vote then is expected to outnumber the male voters by about 2,000,000. But this objection is one that can scarcely be consistent with real Equal Rights convictions. To prevent the operation of those changes for such reasons would be to perpetuate the present inequality in favor of the men. Either way there is certain to be a sex advantage one way or the other until population tables become adjusted by the equalizing tendencies of natural forces over a sufficient period of time. If sex per se is no barrier to the moral right to vote, it cannot be made one temporarily by the fact that one sex or the other will be numerically the stronger at a given time.

Women and Public Office

Christian Science Monitor, Boston, Mass., April 16, 1928.

THERE is a common tendency to draw sweeping conclusions from insufficient evidence—to make decisions without adequate examination of the facts and application of the sound logic which is necessary in order to arrive at well-considered opinions. That such a condition is now somewhat prevalent in the United States is shown in the tendency to speak disparagingly of women as holders of various offices both in the Federal and State governments, elective and appointive as well. It is a too hasty judgment and should be guarded against.

That a few women officeholders may have been weak and delinquent does not justify the conclusion that women as a whole are either lacking in moral stamina or administrative ability. Enough evidence to the contrary is at hand utterly to refute such an opinion. In fact, informed observers have greatly admired the extraordinary political acumen displayed by many women since the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment, and the readiness with which they have developed what may be termed "political consciousness," that is, the ability to grasp the fundamental problems of government and to formulate sound judgments regarding them.

On the whole, there has been little to discredit the position of women as equal to the wise exercise of the right of suffrage, and even less to discredit them as holders of public office. On the other hand, there has been apparent in the political affairs of the United States the presence of an enhanced moral force which makes for civic righteousness and for more efficient service in the administration of public affairs. Moreover, it appears that in many instances women have had the courage to disregard, with the result of marked civic betterment, seeming barriers at which men had been accustomed to halt.

Hasty judgment drawn from a few isolated cases of delinquency would be most unjust to the great body of women voters who, inspired with a high idealism in government, are earnestly striving to improve existing conditions.

Women have on the whole more leisure than men to devote to civic affairs, and since their moral sense is not less, their standards are not lower. These facts coupled with the wisdom of experience which they are rapidly acquiring will insure on the part of women an important service in that improvement of civil government of which many States and most municipal governments are so greatly in need. The good results of admitting women to the rights of suffrage have been notable. There is reason to hope for even better results in the future.

News from the Field

On the Appointment of Doris Stevens

THE Women's Peace Union has written to Mabel Vernon, executive secretary of the National Woman's Party, to congratulate the Woman's Party on its work for equality, and on the appointment of Doris Stevens as chairman of the Pan-American Women's Committee to study the status of women in the Americas and to report to the next Pan-American Conference on measures to be taken to bring about Equal Rights between men and women of the Western Hemisphere.

Esther Van Slyke, secretary of the Women's Peace Union, wrote as follows:

> "May I, in the name of the Women's Peace Union, congratulate the National Woman's Party on the appointment of Miss Doris Stevens as chairman of the Pan-American Women's Commission.
>
> "As a woman's organization we are delighted to see the progress made by the National Woman's Party in the fight for equality for women."

Santa Barbara Luncheon

THE Santa Barbara Branch of the National Woman's Party gave a luncheon on April 21, at which Marjory Miller Whittemore of Detroit, Michigan, was the chief speaker.

Appointed Assistant City Solicitor

FOR the first time in the history of Maryland a woman was appointed assistant city solicitor of Baltimore, when on April 21 Emilie A. Doetsch, lawyer and journalist, was awarded this post. Miss Doetsch has long been a member of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party and is a firm believer in Equal Rights. She is a graduate of Goucher College and the Maryland University Law School, and for several years has been on the editorial staff of the Baltimore *News*.

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